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## U.S. Intelligence Erred, Missile Gap Never Existed, Dulles Says

WASHINGTON, March 28 (UPI) — Allen W. Dulles, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, says the United States overestimated Russia's military intentions in the 1950s — giving birth to rumors of a missile and bomber gap.

Dulles, in an article published yesterday, said such a gap never existed between the Soviet Union and the United States.

He thus confirmed Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara's denial in 1962 of a "missile gap" which was one of the major Democratic charges against the Eisenhower Administration in the 1960 presidential campaign.

In the April issue of Harper's magazine, Dulles said the CIA, responding to "great pressure"

from the Department of Defense, produced projected Soviet missile production figures on the basis of their known capabilities.

But the CIA could only make an educated guess, Dulles said, of how fast the Russians would produce missiles and bombers.

As it turned out, the Russians decided to develop intercontinental ballistic missiles at a slower, more orderly rate instead of rushing their awkward, early ICBMs to launching pads, Dulles said.

When evidence of this appeared, Dulles said, the CIA

quickly lowered its estimates. The same was true of the apparent Soviet decision in 1957 to limit heavy-bomber production drastically.

"In this case, it was possibly fortunate that we erred on the side of overestimating the opponent," Dulles wrote. "All of this intelligence spurred us to press forward with our own missile programs."

Dulles retired in 1962 after eight years as chief of the CIA.